



Sustainability Advisory Committee

**Tuesday 30 May 2023
6.00pm
Council Chambers
209 Comur Street, Yass**

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held in Council Chambers, 209 Comur Street, Yass, on Tuesday 30 May 2023, commencing at **6.00pm**

AGENDA

Page No.

Acknowledgement of Country

Yass Valley Council recognises the Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Custodians of the land, water, and sky. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and future emerging leaders. We extend our respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live in the Yass Valley Local Government Area.

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interests

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 20 April 2023

4. Sustainability Policy Update (verbal report by Chair)

5. Reports

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6. Next Meeting

Committee Members: Cr A Cameron, J Connelly, P Davidson, S Ecker, N Elliott, A Elvin, L McAlary, C Nelson, A Tewes, A Wardle



Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Thursday 20 April 2023

6.00pm

Council Chambers

209 Comur Street, Yass

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Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 20 April 2023

Present

Cr Adrian Cameron (Chair), Alex Tewes, Luke McAlary, Peter Davidson, Alison Elvin, Caitlin Nelson, Nicole Elliott (6.19pm - via Teams)

Also Present

Chris Berry – Chief Executive Officer (via Teams), and Shirree Garland – Corporate Planning & Executive Support Officer

Meeting opened at 6.05pm

Acknowledgement of Country

1. Apologies

Ana Wardle

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held 31 January 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

Tewes/Elvin

Action: *Minutes to be circulated to all members for review following meeting, prior to being presented to Council.*

4. Reports

4.1 DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

SUMMARY

In light of the Council decision in February 2023 to simply note the recommendations from the Committee on the draft Sustainability Policy and Sustainability Assessment Policy, this report suggests a way forward to revise the draft Sustainability Policy and for the Committee use the Sustainability Assessment Framework as a means of setting its priorities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the revised Sustainability Policy and the Sustainability Assessment Framework, circulated to members offline, be endorsed and both documents be presented to Council for endorsement.

McAlary/Nelson

4.2 PROGRAM OF CURRENT AND FUTURE POLICY AND STRATEGIC REVIEWS

SUMMARY

To present an update on a program of current and future policy and strategic reviews.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the report on the development of a program of current and future policy and strategic reviews be noted.

Elliott/Davidson

4.3 REGIONAL WASTE & SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS STRATEGY 2022-2027 AND REGIONAL WASTE & SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS STRATEGY 2022-2027 ACTION PLAN

SUMMARY

Council has referred the *Regional Waste & Sustainable Materials Strategy 2022-27* and *Action Plan* developed through the Canberra Region Joint Organisation to the Committee for comment.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the comments of the Committee members be provided to Council on the Regional Waste & Sustainable Materials Strategy 2022-27 and Action Plan and the strategy and action plan be recommended for Council endorsement.

McAlary/Nelson

4.4 FOGO THRESHOLD QUESTIONS PAPER

SUMMARY

The Sustainability Advisory has identified it can assist Council in the transition to a FOGO collection in a number of areas. Firstly, the scope and design of a scheme appropriate to Yass Valley. Further it may be able to assist in developing applications for grant funding and, finally, in engaging the community once Council has settled upon a preferred approach. As a first step in this task the Committee has developed a draft paper which, amongst other things, sets out relevant threshold questions for resolution.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That:

- 1. The threshold questions paper be further refined by Council staff.*
- 2. A joint workshop involving Committee members, relevant staff and Councillors be held to work through threshold questions.*
- 3. Subject to the outcome of that workshop, a strategy be developed for broader engagement with the general public and relevant community stakeholders on threshold issues.*

Nelson/Davidson

4.5 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING FEASIBILITY STUDY

SUMMARY

To inform the Committee of an EV Feasibility Study being offered to Council in the Canberra Region Joint Organisation. The study will enable Councils to identify suitable charging and obtain a better understanding of key cost and technical parameters of the technology.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That:

1. *The report of the Electric Vehicle Charging Feasibility Study be noted and Council's involvement in the project be endorsed.*
2. *Progress reports on the study be presented to future meetings of the Committee.*

Tewes/Elvin

4.6 ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADE FINANCING

SUMMARY

Environmental Upgrade Financing is an innovative financing mechanism made under NSW Legislation which allows building owners to repay a loan for upgrades through a Local Council charge on land. The feasibility of Council actively supporting such a financing mechanism is considered worth further investigation, both in terms of its environmental benefit and economic development potential.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. *The opinion of the Economic Development Advisory Committee be sought as to the possible level of demand for environmental upgrade financing in Yass Valley.*
2. *Subject to that advice, Council consider further actions to investigate the feasibility of operating an Environmental Upgrade Finance Program in the Yass Valley including an assessment of its legal implications and any financial risks.*

McAlary/Elliott

4.7 TOWN POWER 2GW REGIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

SUMMARY

A proposal for new solar PV and battery storage projects has been received and the company is seeking to identify any Council interest.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the proposed new solar PV and battery project known as "Tower Power" be noted.

McAlary/Elliott

Action: *A Working Group be formed to investigate options for options for renewable energy and battery storage*

5. Confidential Matters

Nil

6. Next Meeting

Thursday 18 May 2023, at 6.00pm in Council Chambers 209 Comur Street, Yass

The meeting closed at 7.05 p.m.

5.1 2023/24 INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING DOCUMENTS

SUMMARY

Council approved the draft 2023/24 Integrated Planning & Reporting documents for public exhibition at an its meeting on 11 May 2023. While the Sustainability Advisory Committee provided a “pre-budget submission” to Council following its 31 January 2023 meeting, it would be appropriate for the Committee to consider whether it wishes to comment further on any items within the 2023/24 Integrated Planning & Reporting documentation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the contents of the 2023/24 Integrated Planning & Reporting documents and determine whether it wishes to make a submission on the documents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993.*

REPORT

The Committee in 31 January 2023 agreed to a “pre-budget submission” which in summary raised the following issues:

- The need to consider the appropriateness of existing levels of expenditure by service type
- Trends in Council’s electricity and fuel costs and carbon emissions
- Funding of actions to address climate change including those recommended the 2021 Climate Change and Natural Disasters Risk Assessment
- The need for Service Reviews in the interest of efficiency and effectiveness
- Council’s long-term financial sustainability and budget controls

The suite of budget and planning documents have been developed subsequently to the point that Council agreed to the release of the draft 2023/24 Integrated Planning & Reporting documents for public comment at its meeting on 11 May.

The Committee may wish to consider how the 2023/24 documents respond to the concerns and suggestions raised by the Committee and the Committee’s proposed priorities and actions within the draft Sustainability Policy.

Comments are to be submitted by 9 June 2023.

The Draft 2023/24 Operational Plan and Long Term Financial Plan; Amended 2022-26 Delivery Program and Draft 2023/24 Revenue Statement can all be viewed at: <https://www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au/our-council/public-consultation/article/1829>

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

5.2 REVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS AND REQUESTS

SUMMARY

The Sustainability Advisory Committee has been in operation for close to 12 months and has met on six separate occasions. Various actions have been proposed and are still in progress. Several matters have also been identified requiring Council assistance. It is appropriate at this stage to review those outstanding actions and requests for assistance to ensure matters continue to be progressed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the actions and requests for assistance in this report and continue to progress as appropriate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY & LEGISLATION

Nil.

REPORT

1. BACKGROUND

The following table summarises actions and requests for assistance agreed by the Committee that are still to be fully progressed:

Issue	Meeting	Status
FOGO Threshold Questions paper	20 April 2023	Council staff to provide input and workshop scheduled.
Distributed Energy and Battery Storage – Information/Discussion Paper to be developed	20 April 2023	Paper is currently in draft form and should be available for discussion at next meeting.
Referral of Environmental Upgrade Financing to Economic Development Advisory Committee	20 April 2023	Report scheduled for the 29 August 2023 Economic Development Advisory Committee
Program of Current and Future Strategic Reviews and Policies	7 November 2022 and 20 April 2023	To be provided subject to resourcing.
Community-led Climate Change Action Plan – Working Group	31 January 2023	It was decided that the Director Corporate & Community would organise a meeting with working group and the Director Planning & Environment and Media & Communications staff.

Issue (cont)	Meeting (cont)	Status (cont)
Sustainability Policy and Framework – Data Requests	7 November 2022	A number of data items requested are outstanding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water usage data • Internal waste volumes and recycling rates • fuel usage and electricity costs
Engagement with Other Committees	7 November 2022	<p>Briefing of Aboriginal Consultative Committee in April 2023 scheduled but meeting was cancelled. Next scheduled meeting is 18 May 2023. Presentation by Chair, Cr Cameron, included in the agenda.</p> <p>Next meeting of the of Economic Development Advisory Committee scheduled for 29 August 2023. Presentation by Chair, Cr Cameron, included in the agenda.</p> <p>Next meeting of the Memorial Hall Advisory Committee is scheduled for the 1 June 2023. Presentation by Chair, Cr Cameron, included in the agenda.</p>

ATTACHMENTS: Nil